

**Senate File 291 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 291

BY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

(SUCCESSOR TO SF 49)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to size, weight, and load limit applicability  
2 to authorized emergency vehicles.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 321.453, Code 2015, is amended to read  
2 as follows:

3 **321.453 Exceptions.**

4 The provisions of this chapter governing size, weight, and  
5 load and the permit requirements of chapter 321E do not apply  
6 to fire apparatus; self-propelled authorized emergency vehicles  
7 which are owned and operated by a state, county, or municipal  
8 law enforcement agency; road maintenance equipment owned by,  
9 under lease to, or used in the performance of a contract with  
10 any state or local authority; implements of husbandry when  
11 moved or moving upon a highway that is not a portion of the  
12 interstate; or equipment used primarily for construction of  
13 permanent conservation practices on agricultural land when  
14 moved or moving upon a highway that is not a portion of the  
15 interstate, so long as the equipment is without payload and  
16 the movement does not violate posted weight limitations on  
17 bridges, except as provided in sections 321.463, 321.471,  
18 and 321.474. A vehicle that is carrying an implement of  
19 husbandry or equipment used primarily for construction of  
20 permanent conservation practices and is exempted from the  
21 permit requirements under this section shall be equipped  
22 with an amber flashing light visible from the rear. If the  
23 amber flashing light is obstructed by the loaded implement or  
24 equipment, the loaded implement or equipment shall also be  
25 equipped with and display an amber flashing light. The vehicle  
26 shall also be equipped with warning flags on that portion of  
27 the vehicle which protrudes into oncoming traffic, and shall  
28 only operate from thirty minutes prior to sunrise to thirty  
29 minutes following sunset.

30 Sec. 2. Section 321.457, subsection 3, Code 2015, is amended  
31 to read as follows:

32 3. Fire fighting apparatus, self-propelled authorized  
33 emergency vehicles which are owned and operated by a state,  
34 county, or municipal law enforcement agency, and vehicles  
35 operated during daylight hours when transporting poles, pipe,

1 machinery, or other objects of a structural nature which cannot  
2 be readily disassembled when required for emergency repair of  
3 public service facilities or properties are not subject to the  
4 limitations on overall length of vehicles and combinations of  
5 vehicles imposed under this section. However, for operation  
6 during nighttime hours, these vehicles and the load being  
7 transported shall be equipped with a sufficient number of  
8 clearance lamps on both sides and marker lamps at the extreme  
9 ends of the projecting load to clearly mark the dimensions of  
10 the load. A member of the state patrol or a peace officer  
11 designated by the department under section 321.477 shall also  
12 be notified prior to the operation of the vehicle.

13 Sec. 3. Section 321.471, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code  
14 2015, is amended to read as follows:

15 a. Local authorities with respect to a highway under their  
16 jurisdiction may by ordinance or resolution prohibit the  
17 operation of vehicles upon the highway or impose restrictions  
18 as to the weight of vehicles to be operated upon the highway  
19 for a total period of not to exceed ninety days in any one  
20 calendar year, whenever the highway by reason of deterioration,  
21 rain, snow, or other climatic conditions will be seriously  
22 damaged or destroyed unless the use of vehicles on the  
23 highway is prohibited or the permissible weights reduced.  
24 The ordinance or resolution shall not apply to implements of  
25 husbandry as defined in section 321.1, implements of husbandry  
26 loaded on hauling units for transporting the implements to  
27 locations for repair, self-propelled authorized emergency  
28 vehicles which are owned and operated by a state, county, or  
29 municipal law enforcement agency, or fire apparatus and road  
30 maintenance equipment owned by, under lease to, or used in the  
31 performance of a contract with a state or local authority.

32 Sec. 4. Section 321.471, subsection 2, paragraph a, Code  
33 2015, is amended to read as follows:

34 a. Upon a finding that a bridge or culvert does not  
35 meet established standards set forth by state and federal

1 authorities, local authorities may by ordinance or resolution  
2 impose limitations for an indefinite period of time on  
3 the weight of vehicles upon bridges or culverts located on  
4 highways under their sole jurisdiction. The limitations shall  
5 be effective when signs giving notice of the limitations  
6 are erected. The ordinance or resolution shall not apply  
7 to implements of husbandry loaded on hauling units for  
8 transporting the implements to locations for purposes of  
9 repair, to self-propelled authorized emergency vehicles which  
10 are owned and operated by a state, county, or municipal law  
11 enforcement agency, or to fire apparatus or road maintenance  
12 equipment owned by, under lease to, or used in the performance  
13 of a contract with a state or local authority.

14 Sec. 5. Section 321.474, subsection 1, Code 2015, is amended  
15 to read as follows:

16 1. The department shall have authority, as granted to  
17 local authorities, to determine by resolution and to impose  
18 restrictions as to the weight of vehicles, except implements of  
19 husbandry as defined in section 321.1, implements of husbandry  
20 loaded on hauling units for transporting the implements to  
21 locations for repair, self-propelled authorized emergency  
22 vehicles which are owned and operated by a state, county, or  
23 municipal law enforcement agency, and fire apparatus and road  
24 maintenance equipment owned by, under lease to, or used in the  
25 performance of a contract with a state or local authority,  
26 operated upon any highway under the jurisdiction of the  
27 department for a definite period of time not to exceed twelve  
28 months. The restrictions shall be effective when signs giving  
29 notice of the restrictions and the expiration date of the  
30 restrictions are erected upon the affected highway or portion  
31 of highway.

32 Sec. 6. Section 321.474, subsection 2, Code 2015, is amended  
33 to read as follows:

34 2. Upon a finding that a bridge or culvert does not  
35 meet established standards set forth by state and federal

1 authorities, the department may impose, by resolution,  
2 restrictions for an indefinite period of time on the weight of  
3 vehicles operated upon bridges or culverts located on highways  
4 under its jurisdiction. The restrictions shall be effective  
5 when signs giving notice of the restrictions are erected. The  
6 restrictions shall not apply to implements of husbandry loaded  
7 on hauling units for transporting the implements to locations  
8 for purposes of repair, to self-propelled authorized emergency  
9 vehicles which are owned and operated by a state, county, or  
10 municipal law enforcement agency, or to fire apparatus or road  
11 maintenance equipment owned by, under lease to, or used in the  
12 performance of a contract with a state or local authority.

13 EXPLANATION

14 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
15 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

16 Current law provides that fire apparatus are not subject  
17 to certain motor vehicle size, weight, and load limit  
18 requirements, or the permit requirements of Code chapter 321E.  
19 Current law also provides that fire apparatus are not subject  
20 to local ordinances or departmental regulations restricting  
21 vehicle weight.

22 The bill broadens these exceptions to include all  
23 self-propelled authorized emergency vehicles which are owned  
24 and operated by a state, county, or municipal law enforcement  
25 agency. Authorized emergency vehicles include fire department  
26 vehicles, police vehicles, ambulances, and other emergency  
27 vehicles owned by the government.